

UAS Working Group Telecom Minutes

August 17, 2005

Participants:

CDR Harris Halverson - NMAO
Sara Summers - OAR
David Helms - NWS
Todd Jacobs - NOS
CDR Todd Stiles - PP&I
Jon Sellars - C&T
Jim Elkins - Climate
CDR Chris Moore - Oceanographer of Navy Liaison

NASA Global Hawk acquisition update:

Chris Naftel, NASA Dryden, reported via email that he is waiting for his management approval of the mission concept document. Randy Brown (USAF Director Global Hawk Systems Group) has received a draft LOI, but has given Chris no time frame for response. Randy appears to still favor the transfer of ACTD air vehicles to NASA.

USAF Weather Scout (Aerosonde) demo from Wallops, VA update:

Weather Scout demo has been pushed back from August to September (6-9). Todd Jacobs and Capt. Phil Kenul (and Harris Halverson, schedule permitting) plan to observe.

NOAA / NASA Altair project update:

Altair had good maintenance check flights this week and will do a 6 hour cold soak flight on Thursday. If this flight is successful the next flight will be the over-the-ocean check the week of August 29. If there are no hitches, then NOAA should be prepared to ship equipment to begin re-integration the day after Labor Day. Science flights are currently scheduled for the last 2 weeks in Sept. Of primary importance is to make sure the plane demonstrates a 24-hour capability.

NASA is checking out what will be required to extend the program beyond the fiscal year, since both COA and their contract with GA-ASI expire Sept 30.

Name change from ROA to UAS:

ROA is officially changing to UAS (Unmanned Aircraft System). A letter was sent to VADM Lautenbacher on 7/29 explaining that FAA is going in the direction of UAS since 'system' includes ground control stations.

Silver Fox UAS:

Todd Jacobs will be traveling to AZ on 8/18-19 to investigate the Silver Fox UAS. He will provide a report to the group on possible NOAA applications upon completion of the trip.

PP&I discussion with Captain Petrae recap

RADM Behn, Dr. Sandy MacDonald and Harris met with Captain Gary Petrae of PP&I on 8/15. They discussed the reaction to last week's UAS Science Advisory Board (SAB) briefing, future UAS funding and the next steps we should take within our group to keep the momentum going.

- The UAS briefing given to the SAB by Dr. MacDonald was well received. The formal recommendation(s) from the SAB Executive Session will be made available shortly, and Harris will distribute.
- There is no distinct UAS funding for FY06 and the "above core" \$2.55M funding for FY07 did not make it to Commerce. Funding for another demo during these two years will most likely have to come from the Line Offices if they are interested in a follow-on UAS project to Altair (unless VADM Lautenbacher directs otherwise).
- We need to get a better "inventory" of what UAS projects are going on within the Line Offices now. We are probably not aware of all projects.
- Our next step should be to brief the NOAA Goal Team Leads and Program Managers on: where we are with UAS in NOAA; where we want to go; what UAS are out there with various costs; what observational gaps the Line Offices have that UAS could fulfill; solicit their help to sustain the NOAA UAS effort for FY 08 and beyond in the budget cycle. We need multiple Programs interested in the technology and willing to split the costs. Multiple Programs need to put UAS in future Program Plans to have PA&E agree to fund. Harris will schedule these Goal Team and Program Manager briefs, and will let everyone know the dates and results.

Discussion:

We do not have a CONOPS or roadmap that we are working from. We have developed a requirements document for PPBES, but now we need to synthesize UAS throughout NOAA and need to do a mission analysis and a COEA. The reality of the situation is that the \$\$ are tied up, but we have a lot of work to do in identifying the gaps and preparing a Long-term plan and justification for management, so that they will hopefully step up.

Status of NOAA UAS Charter

The Charter has been completed. Once it has both RADM Behn's and Sandy MacDonald's signatures, we can post it on the web site.

Action Items:

Sara took the action to develop an inventory of the current NOAA UAS projects.
Sara and Harris will begin working on the joint NOAA/NASA Senate report next week.

Next telecom:

Next Telecom is scheduled for Wednesday September 14 at 1:00 - 2:00 East Coast